



State of Utah

JON HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Public Safety

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Commissioner



NEWS RELEASE

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Lightning Safety Awareness Week

SALT LAKE CITY—Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. has declared June 24 – 30, 2007 as Lightning Safety Awareness Week in Utah, in conjunction with National Lightning Safety Awareness Week. The NOAA Lightning Safety Team, comprised of government and private sector businesses, will lead the lightning safety campaign, with participation from various state and local agencies and businesses. This campaign is designed to lower lightning death and injury rates and America's vulnerability to one of nature's deadliest hazards.

During the past 30 years, lightning has killed an average of 66 people per year in the United States. This is more than the average of 65 deaths per year caused by tornadoes. In Utah, lightning has claimed the lives of 60 people since 1950, more than any other thunderstorm-related hazard. Because lightning usually claims only one or two victims at a time, and because lightning does not cause the mass destruction left in the wake of tornadoes or hurricanes, lightning generally receives much less attention than the more destructive weather-related killers.

During Lightning Safety Awareness Week, we hope you will learn more about lightning risks and how to protect yourself and your loved ones! Daily news releases and statements will be issued and broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards during National Lightning Safety Awareness Week. Warning Coordination Meteorologists and Public Information Officers serving your community will be available for interviews and questions.

Daily topics still to come:

Tuesday – The Science of Lightning
Wednesday – Outdoor Lightning Safety
Thursday – Safe Shelters and Indoor Lightning Safety
Friday – Lightning and Wildfires

Check out the Governor's Declaration and the Lightning Safety Awareness Week publication, posted on the National Weather Service Salt Lake City web page at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc/wxsafety>, National Weather Service Grand Junction web page at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gjt/?n=lightningawareness>, and the Utah Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security web page at: <http://homelandsecurity.utah.gov>